

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

The political timing of this broadcast is clearly intended to influence voter decisions. The public is aware of the alignment of Sinclair Broadcasting with Right wing Republican politics. To allow the broadcast of this film, at such a politically sensitive time in what many believe to be the most important election in modern history, would amount to government sanction of the mass media broadcast of political propaganda. This is unprecedented in the history of American broadcasting. It should be prevented.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you,
James Markham